

I call his service and devotion to the United States and his Community to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

INTRODUCING A HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution to support the goals and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, in recognition of the people who have died on our streets, in emergency shelters, condemned or abandoned properties, and from elements directly related to homelessness.

On or near the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, National Homeless Persons' Memorial events have been held nationwide every year since 1990 to remember the homeless persons whose lives and deaths might otherwise go without any public recognition.

Throughout my home state of Florida, this important day is being recognized, along with over 200 other local municipalities, organizations, and statewide organizations throughout the United States. With the support of the National Coalition for the Homeless, National Consumer Advisory Board, and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day brings attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember our homeless neighbors and friends who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

The statistics are daunting: more than half a million people in the United States do not have a place to call home each night and half of them are without shelter; nationwide each year, an estimated 2,000,000 people experience homelessness; and the mortality rate among homeless populations has been shown to be almost four times that of the general population.

As American citizens, it is not only our desire to help those in need; it is our duty to provide every homeless man, woman, and child with a place to sleep at night, an opportunity to sustain economic stability, and the right to access health care.

On June 22, 2010, President Obama and Members of Congress were presented with "Opening Doors: the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness" which describes how the federal government will partner with states, local communities, non-profit organizations and the private sector. This resolution provides us with the opportunity to commend the efforts of the States, territories, and possessions of the United States who support the goals and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, to encourage those not already doing so, and to salute the dedicated professionals and organizations who provide assistance 365 days a year to people in need.

It is time we acknowledge, as a nation, all of the people in our country living on the

streets who have paid the ultimate price for our failure to end homelessness. In remembering those who died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent as is the Nation's collective commitment to preventing such deaths in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this House Concurrent Resolution and reaffirm Congress' commitment to ending homelessness by promoting a comprehensive national response that addresses the housing, health care, income, and civil rights causal factors and consequences of extreme poverty. Let us make this year's first night of winter and longest night of the year, December 21, 2010, a true national day.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY MEDICAL AND AIR CREWS

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1605, which recognizes the service of medical and air crews in helping our wounded warriors make the expeditious and safe trip home to the United States and commends the personnel of the Air Force for their commitment to the well-being of all our service men and women.

The Air Force's Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons help guarantee that our wounded soldiers are quickly reunited with their families and given the best medical care in U.S. hospitals. Since September 11, 2001, Aeromedical Evacuation flights have been responsible for transporting over 81,000 patients from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, yielding a 98 percent survival rate for injured soldiers. Today, a soldier injured on the battlefield in Afghanistan or Iraq will be back in an American hospital in an average of three days. This is over seven days faster than during Operation Desert Storm and over 40 days quicker than during the conflict in Vietnam.

As a veteran who was wounded in Vietnam, I was flown into Travis Air Force Base in Northern California. Travis Air Force Base is now home to the 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. These physicians, nurses and medical technicians go above and beyond the call of duty every day.

I am honored to bring this resolution to the floor and remain committed to supporting our Armed Forces.

HONORING BOB WHITLEY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bob Whitley.

As President of the United States Tour Operators Association, Bob Whitley dedicated his life to promoting travel, tourism and building lasting friendships. I am proud and honored to have worked with such a caring and dedicated

professional on issues so important for our nation.

In my efforts to advance current legislation providing United States citizens the freedom to travel to Cuba, I seized an opportunity to visit New York City and create national media discussion of the issue. Accompanying me on that trip in September 2009 was Bob Whitley, truly one of the most knowledgeable and respected travel industry leaders.

As our trip progressed, I came to know Bob for the man he was and the legacy he would leave behind. His passion for United States generated tourism and his love for people around the world drew us together. This past March, Bob helped organize and lead the U.S. Cuba Travel Summit in Cancun, Mexico—an event that drew strong participation from both nations in an effort to open communications and discuss easing travel restrictions.

Bob passed away in May, and his funeral included an unrivaled gathering of travel industry colleagues and friends. Today, I add my name as one of his greatest admirers.

Bob held many distinguished positions throughout his career, including Director of both the Florida and Pennsylvania Departments of Tourism, Director of the Virginia Beach Convention and Tourist Bureau, and an incredible thirty-two years at the United States Tour Operators Association. Because of his outstanding record, Bob has been recognized internationally many times. This year, he will receive the 2010 National Tour Association Pioneer Award, an honor given to career leaders in tourism. I am proud to be a past recipient of this same award and it is my honor to share it with Bob.

In addition to his career accomplishments, Bob was an avid golfer and enjoyed traveling to new destinations around the globe, eventually visiting over 100 countries. He leaves his wife, two sons, a daughter, their spouses, and his grandchildren to carry on.

The travel industry has lost a giant, with Bob's passing. We will miss him.

HONORING JOSEPH BARBAGLIA

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Joseph Barbaglia, a successful businessman, person of faith and selfless community volunteer.

Joe and his business partner Guy Bopp are owners of Southwest Hill Auto Parts Inc. They are celebrating their 25th year in business at the same location in the famous "Hill" neighborhood in the City of St. Louis. Joe's business is one of the most successful and reputable auto parts firms in the St. Louis region, and Joe is a member of business organizations that are dedicated to providing quality service and products to the general public; groups such as the Better Business Bureau, the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, the Hill Business Association and the Professional Business Men. Additionally, he is also on the Board of Directors of Eagle Bank.

Joe Barbaglia is a faithful leader in his church serving on various committees for the good of St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Joe has been instrumental in the success of such